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Reds Subvert U. S. Diplomats By Sex-for-Secrets Tactics

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Communists, using pretty Polish girls, compromised six diplomats and 10 Marine guards assigned to the United States embassy in Warsaw during 1958 and 1959, it was learned last week.

During the same period, a debonaire Soviet intelligence agent in quest of information seduced the wife of an American foreign service officer.

While the Communists were attempting to subvert diplomatic personnel with affection, they also slipped burglars into the embassy and pilfered combinations to its safes.

But whether the spies succeeded in obtaining important intelligence remains uncertain.

The Senate Internal Security Subcommittee currently is trying to determine if any secrets were lost and what went awry in State Department security procedures.

The 1958-59 affairs evidently were unrelated to the one in which foreign service officer Irvin N. Scarbeck was involved in 1961.

United States intelligence cracked the cases when it penetrated the Polish espionage service in 1960.

Story Carefully Hidden

However, the intelligence reports of what had been going on seemed so incredible that the State Department initially refused to believe them and for a while was reluctant to intercede.

The story carefully was hidden from the public until last week when three separate sources outlined to The Star what the Government now believes happened.

The young Polish temptresses established relations with the Marines by invading their sleeping quarters.

How much resistance the guards offered has not been determined, but subsequent interrogations and lie detector tests indicated that at least they did not yield any classified information.

"Actually, the Marines didn't know much anyway," a government official told The Star.

The diplomats were enticed individually in trysts arranged at various hideaways around Warsaw. The Communists reportedly took embarrassing photographs of some of them and their companions.

Security investigations and lie detector tests of five of the diplomats disclosed no evidence that they had revealed anything to the Communists. They were transferred from Poland, but remain with the State Department.

The sixth officer was asked to resign because the results of his tests were inconclusive.

The seduction of the wife of the American diplomat occurred while she was traveling in the Soviet Union and her

husband was on duty in Warsaw.

A professional Soviet agent followed and courted the attractive American for several days, apparently acting according to a thoroughly prepared intelligence plan.

Security officials presume the Russian purpose in compromising her was to blackmail her or her husband at some time in the future.

When the wife returned to Warsaw, she did not disclose the affair to her husband or anyone else.

Infidelity Disclosed

After American intelligence learned of it through its Polish informant, security officers had the unpleasant duty of confronting the wife and husband with the report.

Despite a difficult family scene, the diplomat ultimately forgave his wife and their marriage has continued.

How the Communists accomplished the burglary of the embassy has not been revealed, but according to the Polish source they did obtain a list of safe combinations. The State Department eventually ordered all of the combinations changed. Little more than a year after the diplomats and Marines got themselves into trouble by succumbing to the Polish girls, Scarbeck, the embassy's second secretary, began a liaison with a 22-year-old girl. Communist agents then blackmailed him into giving them secret United States documents.

Sex Becomes Weapon

He received a 30-year sentence for espionage, reduced last fall to ten years because of his cooperation with the government.

The Soviet Union and its satellite intelligence services increasingly have exploited sex as a technique of subverting Americans.

"They're throwing girls at us by the scores everywhere behind the Iron Curtain and they've also begun to work on our wives," a government source said.

Personnel departing for assignments in Communist countries expressly are warned of the perils of involvement with foreign women, but difficulties continue, particularly at posts situated in drab and hostile environments.

The burglary of the embassy in Warsaw also was not without precedent.

"At another embassy, they even drilled a hole in the roof to get in," an official said.

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